

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, February 20, 1879, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. Boston, Feb. 20th, 1879. L My darling May:

I enclose an extract from a private letter to Mr. Blake from Prof. Hilgard (one of the judges of the Centennial Exhibition) which is gratifying as corroborating Prof. Watson's letter. We have succeeded today in measuring the resistance of two of my pieces of selenium and in getting a deflection of the galvanometer needle by means of a lighted match. The resistance of the thickest piece was 21,100,000 ohms and of the small piece was over eleven million of ohms.

I am now occupying myself in writing to you while waiting for the noises of this busy workshop to subside that I may make the experiment of hearing light. I am in a fever of expectation but I am quite prepared to be disappointed.

The meeting to-day passed off quietly — nothing was said about the Presidency. The New England Company have appointed a Committee to meet a Committee of the Bell Telephone Co. which was appointed to-day — to arrange the details of the re-organization.

I have invited both Committees to meet me on Monday informally for the purpose of hearing a Communication from me. I do this informally as otherwise Mr. Hubbard would have to be notified for he is on one of the Committees. Senders told me this morning that he would not oppose Mr. Hubbard's re-election. Bradley said this morning he thought it would be the best plan if I could not be induced to be President. If they continue of the same mind all will be well. I am to see Mr. Forbes privately tomorrow morning at his office 2 and I spend the night tomorrow with Mr. Blake. If I can secure the moral co-operation of all these we will be able to secure unanimous action. I intend exerting all my personal

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influence with each man separately during this week and on Monday I bring them all together and clinch the matter with a carefully prepared address.

I tell them — that I find them divided against one another — that there is ill-feeling all round — and biassed opinions. I find myself to be the only man who has the confidence of all — and that therefore that I feel that the duty devolves upon me of trying to bring all together and of establishing peace and harmony. I don't know what to do — but I feel it incumbent upon me to try. I intend to make one great effort to restore unanimity of action and harmony of feeling — and if I fail in my effort — to leave the Company.

In haste.

Your loving husband, Alec. I send Illustrated Papers, etc. After you have perused them and all have seen them who care please send them to Canada. My mother likes to see them. AGB